Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is going to disinvest 20 per cent shares, if so, the details thereof with regard to total number of shares for sale, their reserve price and method of unloading shares;

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC Chairman said last month that equity base of ONGC is now only Rs. 343 crores, if so, how its assets had exceeded Rs. 10,000 crores;

(c) what are the details of liabilities of ONGC;

(d) whether ONGC equity base is targetted at Rs. 4000-5000 crores, if so, how this will be done;

(e) whether ONGC workers would be offered 5 per cent equity i.e. one-fourth of the equity proposed to be issued, if so, at what price and whether any discount or financial assistance would be given to them to buy equities;

(f) whether if is a fact when ONGC becomes public limited company it would have authorised capital of Rs. 15,000 crores; and

(g) whether ONGC offloading of shares would be available to NRI and foreign investors, if so, what is the quantum earmarked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) After conversion of ONGC into a Public Limited Company, 20% of the expanded equity base is proposed to be offered to the Public. Modalities of disinvestment of the shares, etc., are yet to be decided.

(b) The equity base of ONGC is Rs. 343 crores. However, the assets include Block capital, working capital, investments in addition to equity.

(c) The total liabilities on ONGC presently is Rs. 9391 crores comprising various loans and deferred credits.

(d) to (f) No decision in this regard has yet been taken.

(g) No decision in this regard has yet been taken.

Gas reserve in the country

4075. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the counter has got 15 years reserve of already discovered gas as 80 MM CMD consumption level;

(b) what is the quantum of gas consumed today and when our country would obtain the level of 80 MM CMD;

(c) what is the expected additional cost of attaining the level of 80 MM CMD and what are the sources to meet this additional cost;

(d) what are the new areas being explored for exploitation of natural gas and what is the prospect; the detail thereof;

(e) whether Government are trying up with foreign countries and companies to procure gas for 90 MM CMD gas already committed and registered demand of 2.60 MM CMD; and

(f) what is the percentge of reserve gas being exploited and used today and what is the expected rate of exploitation and use by the end of the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The recoverable reserve of gas is around 700 BCM.

(a) The gas consumption is around 38 MMSCMD at present which is likely to go upto 72 MMSCMD by 1996-97.

(c) The schemes for the production, transportation and distribution of the additional quantity of gas are proposed to be taken up with assistance from World Bank, ADB etc.

(d) Sedimentary basins both onland and offshore are being explored.

(e) The feasibility of importing gas from the Middle East is under study.

(f) The current rate of about 2.7% is expected to increase to 4.7% by 1996-97.

Supply of gas to TEC

4076. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is supposed to supply 1500 MT of gas per day to Tata Electric Company as per agreement;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that since February, 1993, TEC has been receiving only about 500 MT per day as reported in the 'Observer', New Delhi of August 10, 1993; if so, what are the reasons for the cut of gas suply to TEC;

(c) whether due to fuel shortage TEC had a breakdown of power by 5 million units during the year 1992-93;

(d) whether this fall in generation affects its supply to Railways, Bombay Municipal Corporation and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre; and

(e) if so what steps the ONGC have taken or propose to take to restore the required gas supply to TEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supply was reduced in some of the months but not below 940 MT/day.

(c) to (e) TEC has the capability to use liquid furl (LSHS) and coal to make up for shortage of natural gas.

Opening of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu

4077. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some applications for opening the LPG agencies and petrol pumps in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, places from where such demands have been received; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu for setting up and allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships. After survey, locations meeting the Industry norms are included in the Marketing Plans for opening of dealerships/distibutorships. Accordingly, 96 retail outlet and 44 LPG distributorship proposals have been included in the current Marketing Plans, for Tamil Nadu.

Selection for appointment of Retail Outlet dealers/LPG distributors is made by an Oil Selection Board through interview of persons applying against advertisements and meeting eligibility criteria.

Selection of dealers/distributors is in progress.

Response of MNCs to Oil Exploration

4078. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the response of multi-national for oil exploration auctions has been very poor; if so, reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons of lukewarm response is invironmental condition; and

(c) whether environment protection condition will be elaborately stipulated in the tenders; if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The response of multinational companies for oil exploration in the country has been satisfactory keeping in view the current climate for investment in exploration activities in the international market.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The conditions for environment protection are included in the production sharing contracts, in line with current inter-national standards.

Meeting of CMs of southern states regarding southern gas grid

4079. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Chief Ministers from the Southern States has been held where they had consultation in about the implementation of the Southern gas grid, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the present state of the Southern gas grid proposal; and

(c) what are the future plans with the time frame with regard to the implementation of Southern gas grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The concept of laying a